

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 SS-15 SP-02 CIAE-00  
INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NEA-11 /080 W  
-----041527 131653Z /64  
R 131415Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4420  
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 CONAKRY 1129

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3  
TAGS: PEPR, OVIP, GV, US  
SUBJECT: ANDREW YOUNG VISIT TO GUINEA

REF: (A) CONAKRY 1089, (B) CONAKRY 1123, (C) CONAKRY 0322

1. SUMMARY: TREND OF GOG POLICIES AND ACTIONS DURING PAST YEAR HAS BEEN UNIFORMLY POSITIVE FROM US POINT OF VIEW. GOG HAS MADE CLEAR ITS DESIRE FOR EXPANDED US INVESTMENT AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT, BUT EXCEPT FOR GENEROUS PL-480 ASSISTANCE, OUR RESPONSE HAS BEEN LIMITED AND IN SOME CASES NEGATIVE. A VALUED INTANGIBLE THAT MIGHT COMPENSATE FOR SOME OF THIS SHORTFALL WOULD BE A VISIT TO GUINEA BY AMBASSADOR YOUNG. YOUNG'S COMING WOULD BE WARMLY WELCOMED BY GOG, WOULD HELP UNDERSCORE POSITIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, SOUTHERN AFRICA AND OTHER AFRICAN ISSUES AND WOULD HELP MAINTAIN FORWARD MOMENTUM OF US/GUINEA RELATIONS. RECOMMEND FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF VISIT BY AMBASSADOR YOUNG IN LATE JULY OR EARLY AUGUST. END SUMMARY.

2. STARTING WITH PRIME MINISTER BEAVOGUI'S VISIT TO US IN JUNE 1977 AND GOG SUSPENSION OF SOVIET TU-95 NAVAL SURVEILLANCE FLIGHTS, GUINEAN DEVELOPMENTS, BOTH INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL, HAVE BEEN ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY POSITIVE FROM US POINT OF VIEW. NO SOVIET AIRLIFT TO  
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ETHIOPIA VIA GUINEA, OPPOSITION TO CONSTRUCTION OF SOVIET NAVAL BASE ON TAMARA ISLAND, INDICATION OF DISSATISFACTION WITH SOVIET TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND BAUXITE ARRANGEMENTS; SEKOU TOURE'S CITING OF US AGRICULTURE AND BAUXITE OPERATIONS AS MODELS, ENCOURAGEMENT OF FURTHER US INVESTMENT IN DABOLA, MIFERGUI-NIMBA, AND DIAMOND MINING, HIGHLIGHTING OF US PL-480 DROUGHT ASSISTANCE,

INTEREST IN SUBSTANTIVE BRIEFINGS ON US POLICY;  
AMNESTY OF GUINEAN "EXILES", RECONCILIATION AND  
NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH SENEGAL/IVORY COAST,  
RELAXATION OF INTERNAL TENSION AND SECURITY CONTROLS,  
RELEASE OF SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS  
IN JUNE AND DECEMBER 1977 AND MAY 1978, RELAXATION OF  
MARKET CONTROLS AND IMPROVEMENT OF CONSUMER GOODS  
SUPPLY, INDICATIONS OF MORE PRAGMATIC APPROACH TO  
ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND BELIEF THAT THE WEST HAS THE MOST  
TO CONTRIBUTE TO GUINEA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; SEKOU  
TOURE'S NEW OUTWARD LOOKING APPROACH AND TRAVELS TO  
BOTH RADICAL (LIBYA, BENIN) AND MODERATE (NIGERIA, TOGO,  
GHANA, MALI, SAUDI ARABIA AND GULF STATES) DURING PAST  
THREE MONTHS, HIS APPARENT DESIRE TO ESTABLISHMENT OF HIMSELF  
AS ELDER STATESMAN AND CONSTRUCTIVE MEDIATOR  
AND THE MORE MODERATE, RESTRAINED POSITION HE HAS ASSUMED  
ON AFRICAN ISSUES.

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INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NEA-11 /080 W  
-----041759 131653Z /64

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3. OTHER THAN THROUGH PL-480 ASSISTANCE, US HAS BEEN  
LIMITED IN ITS ABILITY TO RESPOND TANGIBLY TO TOURE'S  
NEW COURSE AND HIS OVERTURES FOR MORE BALANCED, LESS  
IDEOLOGICALLY SUSPICIOUS RELATIONS WITH US. US STEEL  
AND REYNOLDS METAL PARTICIPATION IN IRON ORE AND BAUXITE  
PROJECTS IS POSSIBLE BUT STILL UNCERTAIN, EXIM-BANK  
SUPPORT FOR GOG PURCHASE OF BOEING 737 HAS BEEN WITHHELD,  
US ABSTAINED ON AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND SUPPORT FOR  
GUINEAN AGRICULTURAL PROJECT, WE HAVE NOT RESPONDED TO  
PRIME MINISTER'S JUNE '77 REQUEST FOR COASTAL PATROL  
BOATS, IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR AGRICULTURAL TRAINING AND  
DEVELOPMENT PROJECT HAS BEEN SLOW TO THE POINT OF EXASPER-

ATION, OURE RESPONSE TO AN OCTOBER 1977 LIST OF TEN OTHER SUGGESTED AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS HAS BEEN SLOW AND THUS FAR INCONCLUSIVE, THERE HAS BEEN NO RESPONSE TO PRIME MINISTER'S JUNE '77 INVITATION TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG TO VISIT GUINEA, AND NO OTHER HIGH-LEVEL US OFFICIAL HAS COME TO SAMPLE THE NEW ATMOSPHERE HERE.

4. A VISIT BY AMBASSADOR YOUNG WOULD BE WELCOMED BY PRESIDENT TOURE AS EVIDENCE OF US INTEREST IN AND APPRECIATION OF THE STRIKINGLY POSITIVE TREND OF DEVELOPMENTS IN GUINEA. YOUNG COULD UNDERSCORE THE DEPTH OF US COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND ENCOURAGE  
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TOURE TO CONTINUE AND PERHAPS ACCELERATE THE RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS. HE COULD GIVE TOURE PERSONAL, FIRST-HAND APPRECIATION OF US POLICIES AND ROLE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THROUGHOUT THE CONTINENT, UNDER-SCORING CONSTRUCTIVE NATURE OF US INTENTIONS, AND SOLICITING UNDERSTANDING AND HOPEFULLY SUPPORT. HE COULD HELP ENCOURAGE GUINEAN PROGRESS TOWARD PRAGMATISM AND MORE AUTHENTIC NONALIGNMENT, AND HE COULD PRESENT OUR VIEWS OF THE SOVIET AND CUBAN ROLE IN AFRICA IN TERMS THAT SHOULD CARRY WEIGHT WITH TOURE. AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S VISIT WOULD GIVE TOURE AND THE GOG A PSYCHOLOGICAL BOOST AND REPRESENT AN INTANGIBLE QUID THAT WOULD COMPENSATE IN SOME MEASURE FOR DISAPPOINTMENTS OVER PATROL BOATS, ETC. HIS COMING WOULD HELP COUNTER-BALANCE THE EXPECTED MOVES OF THE NEW SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO RECOUP THE ERODED SOVIET POSITION IN GUINEA.

5. HAVING ALREADY VISITED SENEGAL AND IVORY COAST, AMBASSADOR YOUNG CAN COME TO CONAKRY WITHOUT RUFFLING FEATHERS IN ABIDJAN OR DAKAR. A VISIT IN JULY OR THE FIRST HALF OF AUGUST SHOULD BE POSSIBLE, IF IT DOES NOT COINCIDE WITH PRESIDENT TOURE'S FUTURE TRAVELS. HE IS EXPECTED TO RETURN FROM THE GULF STATES ABOUT JUNE 25 AND TO ATTEND THE OAU SUMMIT IN KHARTOUM IN JULY. OTHER TRIPS TO MOROCCO, EGYPT AND SIERRA LEONE ARE ALSO POSSIBLE BUT NO DATES HAVE BEEN FIXED. IF NOT CONVENIENT FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG, A VISIT IN LATE OCTOBER OR EARLY NOVEMBER SHOULD ALSO BE POSSIBLE.

6. CONCLUSION: I BELIEVE A VISIT BY AMBASSADOR YOUNG WOULD MAKE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO US/GUINEAN RELATIONS, AND I RECOMMEND THAT IT BE PROPOSED TO GOG SOON. IF DEPARTMENT AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG ARE IN  
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AGREEMENT, WE CAN EXPLORE TIMING POSSIBILITIES WITH  
GOG. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS AND GUIDANCE.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
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**TAGS:** PEPR, OVIP, GV, US, (YOUNG, ANDREW)  
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